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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

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FL 239



MARCH, 1963

Seasonal Employment Decline 1,100 Below Past Past Five Years

The seasonal employment decline in Montana's labor markets between January and February this year was substantially less than in recent years. The employment drop this year was figured at 400 compared with an average of about 1,500 between these two months during the past five years. More workers were employed in Montana this February than any other February of record. Estimates compiled by the Commission in cooperation with the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics showed that 161,500 workers received paychecks from the state's non-farm employers at mid-February. This was a gain of 3,300 from February, 1962.

Most Gain in Two Groups

Manufacturing and mining industries provided the base for the over-the-year employment gain. Employment in manufacturing industries was up 2,300 from last February with gains of 800 posted in lumber oriented activities, and 1,900 as a result of Minuteman installation operations. Employment losses of 300 in primary metals and 100 in the non-durable goods category subtracted from the total of these two gains leaves a net increment of 2,300.

The mining group appears to be on a slow road to recovery after some rough times following the 1957-58 recession. Employment in metal mining was 500 higher than a year ago. Employment gains of 400 in petroleum and natural gas production, and 100 in coal, quarrying and non-metallic mining brought the total increase to 1,000 in this industry classification.

BACK TO WORK CALL SOUNDED IN INDUSTRY AND FARM AS SPRING JOB SHAPE-UP BEGINS

At the end of February, over 17,000 Montanans registered for employment at the State's 22 local employment offices, were waiting for the spring upswing in jobs so they could return to work. The depressing effect of winter was gone and jobs in industry and farm were starting to open up at the rate of about 500 a week. As the work season advances, agriculture, construction, manufacturing, and trade and service establishments will provide the majority of the job opportunities. Although the spring job outlook is bright, it is tempered by some disturbing factors. Although there has been some industrial expansion in Montana during the past year, it has not been able to keep pace with a growing labor force. The entry of high school and college graduates into the labor market this summer will add to the problem. The paradox of record-breaking employment, coupled with high unemployment, will undoubtedly remain a part of the summer labor market scene.

Mixed Trends in Others

Moderate employment advances from last February are recorded in three other major industry groups with declines in another three. A gain of 800 in government employment is all at the state and local levels. The broad service industries group, which includes hotels, business services, dry cleaning establishments, repair services, medical, legal and educational services and a variety of others, was up 300. Finance, insurance and real estate units had 100 more personnel this February than last.

Employment in contract construction followed the normal patterns of winter decline plus the phasing out of the construction aspects of the Minuteman missile complex. Both combined to reduce construction employment by 1,000 from February, 1962. Smaller declines occurred in trade, and the transportation, communications and utilities group, each down by 100.

Growth in 1962

A recent Bureau of Labor Statistics report points out that the number of non-agri-

cultural jobs in the Western states increased by 3.9 per cent during 1962. The job gain in Montana was 3.5 per cent, making Montana seventh in job expansion during 1962 in comparison with the other Western states. The percentage employment growth in the other states is listed as follows: Nevada, 10.6; Utah, 5.0; Oregon, 4.7; Arizona, 4.4; California, 4.2; Alaska, 4.0; New Mexico, 3.3; Washington, 2.5; Colorado, 2.4; Hawaii 1.6; Wyoming, 1.0; and Idaho, 0.1.

1962 Employment Averages 170,000

Ranging from a low of 158,200 in February to a peak of 177,900 in August, non-farm employment in Montana averaged 170,000 during 1962. It was the highest yearly average of record, and 2,900 above 1961 average employment. Employment expansion during 1962 was centered in four industry groups: manufacturing, up 1,600; construction, up 1,000; government, up 900; and service industries, up 400. Employment in four other major industry groups declined slightly during 1962.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (per 100 employees)

(Compiled in cooperation with U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	ACCESSION RATE						SEPARATION RATE								
	Total			New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	1) Jan. 1963	2) Dec. 1962	Jan. 1962	Jan. 1963	Dec. 1962	Jan. 1962	Jan. 1963	Dec. 1962	Jan. 1962	Jan. 1963	Dec. 1962	Jan. 1962	Jan. 1963	Dec. 1962	Jan. 1962
3) All Manufacturing.....	2.8	2.1	3.2	1.8	1.7	2.2	3.8	4.8	3.9	1.3	1.4	1.1	1.6	2.6	2.0
Durable Goods.....	3.3	2.5	4.1	2.1	2.0	2.8	4.9	5.7	4.7	1.7	1.7	1.2	2.1	3.0	2.4
Primary Metal.....	3.1	.7	2.4	1.3	.3	.1	2.7	3.5	2.5	.8	.2	.3	.3	1.4	.7
3) Nondurable Goods.....	1.7	1.3	1.6	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.3	2.7	2.5	.5	.7	.8	.3	1.8	1.3
All Mining.....	7.5	5.3	7.9	4.6	2.9	3.7	6.8	4.1	5.6	2.9	2.2	2.0	1.0	.7	1.9
Metal Mining.....	8.5	6.2	5.5	3.7	2.1	.4	6.8	3.7	4.5	2.4	2.2	2.0	.2	.2	.8

1) Preliminary rates based on all data available at publication time 2) Figures revised on more complete returns.

3) Excludes sugar and canning industries. Total separations include discharges and miscellaneous separations.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary Feb. 1

ANACONDA Deer Lodge, Philipsburg — 443 jobseekers, 72 new, 302 men, 141 women). Job hires down 50 per cent from January as employment activities in outside work and trade establishments continue in seasonal decline. Smelter employment remains fairly constant with over 2,200 employed. Some hiring under the Public Works program scheduled for early March.

BILLINGS. Columbus, Hardin, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—(3,520 jobseekers, 729 new, 2,571 men, 949 women). Building, highway, and dam construction resumed during February as weather improved. Work force at Yellowstone Dam expanded to 300 workers. Work on new \$5½ million federal building set to start mid-April. Trade and service employment holding up well but with little additional hiring evident. Seasonal shutdown of Roundup coal mining operations idled 40 men with little hope of immediate other employment. Oil field exploration activities up slightly. Start of springfarm work created more jobs.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(655 jobseekers, 175 new, 404 men, 251 women). Increased labor market activity started to show in most industry segments during February. Work on building projects resumed after weather-caused January shutdown. New projects include super market, two highway bridges, and an overpass. Steady trends hold in logging and sawmill work, unaffected by spring breakup conditions. Good trends for main street seen.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(998 jobseekers, 324 new, 654 men, 344 women). Labor market trends paced by increased hiring at metal mines. Twenty-seven miners trained under the ARA program now employed. Copper concentrator plant main construction activity with 950 working. Work on highway projects should resume during March. Main street hiring not too active; several small business closures noted.

CUT BANK—(396 jobseekers, 44 new, 296 men, 100 women). Hiring under the Public Works program at Browning highlighted February labor market activity; 64 now employed with potential force of 100. Construction work slow at present but planned 50 unit housing program at Browning should create demand for building craftsmen. Farm labor demand mainly for sheep tagging. Shearing operations slated for March.

DILLON (196 jobseekers, 55 new, 163 per cent women). Work on \$22 million irrigation, and Clark Canyon Dam projects resumed during February. This project, now over 50 per cent done and scheduled for completion by late 1964. Construction of

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Employment—	1963 Feb.	1963 Jan.	1962 Feb.	1954-63 Feb. Avg.
Industrial Employment	161,500	161,900	158,200	153,700
New Job Applicants	3,520	4,766	3,301	3,717
Job Applicants, End of Month	17,032	17,437	20,627	18,424
	Mar. 1 1963	Feb. 2 1963	Mar. 2 1962	Avg. 1st Mar. Wk. 1959-63
Insured Unemployment Week of				
New and Renewal Claims	1,145	1,654	1,674	1,554
Unemployed Weeks Filed	10,663	11,726	11,781	14,353
Total Unemployment Claims	11,808	13,380	13,455	15,897

three major building projects including apartment house, church, and drive-in bank over half done. Main street trends slow in improving despite good weather.

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—(489 jobseekers, 62 new, 330 men, 159 women). Hiring trends in most industries started to look up with return of good weather. Increased hiring noted at garages, service stations, cafes, and other trade establishments. Work on 60 low rental housing units main construction activity. Air base projects employ only skeleton crews as most work shutdown.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(403 job-seekers, 48 new [280 men, 123 women]). Labor market trends rather weak during February. Construction not too active but about 50 employed on three building projects. Oil field work still slow but some hiring done for oil exploration crews. Moderate hiring on the farm front.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(2,370 jobseekers, 578 new, 1,725 men, 645 women). Labor market patterns during February kept close to seasonal lines with hiring mostly for replacements only. Bulk of labor demand came from service industries followed by trade industry job orders. Construction activity remained at near stand still but three building projects totaling \$7½ million ready to start. Only moderate hiring occurred at smelter operations.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(342 jobseekers, 50 new, 285 men, 57 women). Labor market indicators point to gradual pick-up in most industries. Seasonal callbacks of workers idled by January weather and Public Works program referrals cut jobseekers' files. Spring breakup conditions curtailed logging and affected operations at some mills. Farm labor demand not too sharp.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(518 jobs seekers, 126 new, 451 men, 67 women). Job placements below last month and last year as labor market trends on the passive side. General pick-up seen next month as work resumes on several major building projects, trade starts spring expansion, and farm jobs develop. The Public Works program on the

Fort Belknap Indian Reservation provided some jobs during February.

HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(873 jobseekers, 181 new, 707 men, 166 women). No significant change in labor market conditions from last month and last year. Recall of construction and lumber workers was common throughout the month as weather improved. Most new job hires were in clerical fields. \$5 million in road projects ready to start. New \$10 million cement plant at Montana City started production March 8.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(1,544 jobseekers, 227 new, 1,269 men, 275 women). Return of good weather sparked more activity in construction and projects under the Public Works program. Logging suffered, however, as spring road breakup conditions and load limits cut woods operations. Stockpiled logs permitted most mills to operate and some worker recalls and new hiring was evident. Main street trends not yet too active and several small businesses closed.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Win-
nett—(500 jobseekers, 72 new, 410 men,
90 women). Job hires in both industry and
farm exceed last month and last year. Work
on missile installation program largest proj-
ect in area, employing about 1,000 workers.
Commercial and home building occupies 65
workers. Trade and service volume keeps
close to seasonal lines.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(465 job-seekers, 64 new, 321 men, 144 women). Most outside labor market activity held in check early February by bad weather. Most mills and logging operations returned to normal with better weather. Main street hiring not too sharp but some demand for cooks and waitresses. Little demand for sales clerks and office workers.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(409 jobseekers, 44 new, 347 men, 62 women). No appreciable change in labor market conditions forecast for 1963. Trends in both industry and farm expected to remain at normal levels. Possible

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

[illegible]

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary Feb. 1

uptrends in trade industries could offset construction employment losses.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(1,123 jobseekers, 401 new, 771 men, 352 women). General upturn in lumbering and construction highlighted February labor market scene. \$12 million in highway projects should be in progress by May 1. Fair trends prevailed in retail trade establishments; addition to shopping center made 24 jobs. Spring breakup of logging roads caused some layoffs of woods workers.

POLSON—(475 jobseekers, 48 new, 387 men, 88 women). Job hires down from last year due to lack of major construction projects. All lumber mills kept on steady schedules during February. Logging was starting to show first signs of temporary declines because of road conditions and load limits. Some hiring under the Public Works program for Indian service projects.

SHELBY—(399 jobseekers, 63 new, 313 men, 86 women). Generally tight economic conditions exist because of earlier drought conditions in a predominately rural economy. February hiring slow in all outdoor industries with exception of some new activity in oil fields. Several building and highway projects expected to start April.

SIDNEY—(266 jobseekers, 70 new, 253 men, 13 women). February labor market activity limited to recall of some construction and oil field workers. Sugar beet refining operations ended February 15 releasing 180 workers. Some upturn in trade forecast during March as roadside drive-ins reopened and spring employment expansion occurred in other establishments.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(252 jobseekers, 51 new, 214 men, 38 women). Job placements under the Public Works program accounted for nearly half of all hires during February. More employment expansion under this program set for March. Logging crews kept on good schedules but some declines anticipated during March because of spring breakup conditions. Most mills expect to operate steadily on stockpiled logs during this period.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey—(396 jobseekers, 36 new, 338 men, 58 women). Construction employment at winter low due to weather-caused layoffs and some completed projects. New building projects totaling \$875,000 scheduled to start about April. Some hiring noted for oil oriented activities, mostly for exploration crews. No change in oil drilling operations. Trade employment up slightly with reopening of cafe employing ten.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	Feb. 1963 (2)	Jan. 1963 (2)	Feb. 1962	Jan. '63 to Feb. '63	Feb. '62 to Feb. '63
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	161,500	161,900	158,200	400	3,300
Manufacturing	21,900	21,800	19,600	100	2,300
Durable goods.....	14,800	14,700	12,400	100	2,400
Lumber and timber products.....	8,100	8,000	7,300	100	800
Primary metals.....	3,200	3,200	3,500	00	300
Other (4).....	3,500	3,500	1,600	00	1,900
Nondurable goods.....	7,100	7,100	7,200	00	100
Food and kindred products.....	3,800	3,800	3,700	00	100
Printing and publishing.....	1,700	1,700	1,700	00	00
Petroleum refining.....	1,100	1,100	1,100	00	00
Other (5).....	500	500	700	00	200
Mining	7,500	7,400	6,500	100	1,000
Metal mining.....	4,300	4,300	3,800	00	500
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic.....	800	800	700	00	100
Petroleum-natural gas production.....	2,400	2,300	2,000	100	400
Contract Construction	7,900	8,400	8,900	500	1,000
Contractors, building construction.....	2,000	2,200	2,000	200	00
Contractors, other than building.....	1,800	2,000	3,400	200	1,600
Contractors, special trade.....	4,100	4,200	3,500	100	600
Transportation and utilities	17,100	17,100	17,200	00	100
Interstate railroads.....	7,600	7,700	7,900	100	300
Transportation except railroads.....	3,800	3,700	3,500	100	300
Utilities including communication.....	5,700	5,700	5,800	00	100
Trade	37,000	37,000	37,100	00	100
Wholesale trade.....	7,600	7,700	8,100	100	500
Retail trade.....	29,400	29,300	29,000	100	400
General merchandise and apparel.....	5,800	5,900	5,500	100	300
Food stores.....	4,700	4,600	4,800	100	100
Eating and drinking establishments.....	6,800	6,800	6,800	00	00
Automotive and filling stations.....	6,300	6,200	6,000	100	300
Retail trade not elsewhere classified.....	5,800	5,800	5,900	00	100
Finance, insurance and real estate	6,700	6,600	6,600	100	100
Services and miscellaneous	23,000	23,000	22,700	00	300
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc.....	2,500	2,600	2,400	100	100
Personal services.....	1,900	1,900	1,900	00	00
Other (6).....	18,600	18,500	18,400	100	200
Government	40,400	40,600	39,600	200	800
Federal.....	10,100	10,200	10,200	100	100
State and local.....	30,300	30,400	29,400	100	900
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	23,300	23,100	22,000	200	1,300
Manufacturing.....	5,300	5,200	3,300	100	2,000
Contract construction.....	1,900	1,800	2,600	100	700
Transportation and utilities.....	2,100	2,100	2,100	00	00
Trade, wholesale and retail.....	5,400	5,400	5,300	00	100
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate.....	1,200	1,200	1,200	00	00
Services and miscellaneous (7).....	3,500	3,500	3,500	00	00
Government.....	3,900	3,900	4,000	00	100
Billings Area (Yellowstone County)	21,400	21,600	21,500	200	100
Manufacturing.....	2,200	2,200	2,200	00	00
Contract construction.....	1,000	1,000	900	00	100
Transportation and utilities.....	2,400	2,400	2,500	00	100
Trade, wholesale and retail.....	6,900	7,000	7,100	100	200
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate.....	1,300	1,300	1,300	00	00
Services and Miscellaneous (7).....	4,000	4,000	4,000	00	00
Government.....	3,600	3,700	3,500	100	100

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 839 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,290 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership or-

ganizations and businesses not otherwise classified

(7) Same as (6) above. Also includes hotels, rooming houses, camps, personal services and mining.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN FEB. 1963 AND FEB. 1962

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placement								UI Claims* Wk. 3-1	
	Feb. 1963		Feb. 1962		Feb. 1963		Feb. 1962		Feb. 1963				Feb. 1962				1963	1962
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.		
Anaconda	72	13	81	17	443	75	477	76	18		18	5	18	6	24	7	286	268
Billings	729	142	542	113	3,520	849	3,234	815	322	61	383	108	372	79	451	185	2,047	2,182
Bozeman	175	31	152	25	655	123	787	160	90	19	109	21	121	20	141	29	379	503
Butte	324	69	270	56	998	228	1,705	389	125	1	126	44	87	4	91	15	749	935
Cut Bank	43	7	89	14	396	118	495	92	82	43	125	54	27	56	83	15	231	287
Dillon	55	14	64	18	196	50	251	69	19	43	62	27	32	36	68	26	131	176
Glasgow	62	5	96	18	489	88	616	197	49	6	55	15	61	11	72	25	375	450
Glendive	48	4	61	14	403	41	293	78	39	19	58	9	46	3	49	10	204	235
Great Falls	578	98	493	86	2,370	698	3,040	838	231	30	261	49	234	69	303	94	1,415	1,783
Hamilton	50	8	65	12	342	82	586	144	29	6	35	11	22	11	33	6	284	282
Havre	126	9	86	22	518	145	750	193	42	18	60	28	58	30	88	20	351	415
Helena	181	35	147	30	873	269	846	242	67	11	78	17	98	4	102	30	653	806
Kalispell	227	43	134	22	1,544	461	1,882	414	112	3	115	30	65		65	20	1,410	1,472
Lewistown	72	15	63	13	500	113	385	100	59	25	84	31	50	19	69	23	373	318
Livingston	64	7	49	8	465	99	548	137	48	8	56	21	37	9	46	10	383	485
Miles City	44	5	39	5	409	97	455	155	36	27	63	10	37	28	65	16	338	387
Missoula	491	82	407	78	1,123	330	1,840	472	170	12	182	21	143	6	149	38	1,003	995
Polson	48	7	337	45	475	135	710	157	18	4	22	5	59	5	64	17	296	324
Selby	63	13	56	9	399	87	430	110	20	32	52	9	44	25	69	21	218	252
Shelby	70	10	64	8	266	49	379	58	24	5	29	5	22	12	34	11	206	279
Thompson Falls	51	12	48	12	252	68	371	112	48		48	26	23		23	11	194	288
Wolf Point	36	7	48	8	396	99	547	122	28		28	9	32	2	34	7	282	333
TOTALS	3,520	634	3,301	627	17,932	4,305	20,627	5,130	1,676	373	2,049	546	1,688	435	2,123	636	11,808	13,455

*Includes 1,073 claims of the Fed. UC Program 968 same a year ago.

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

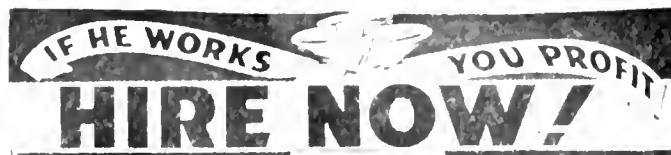
(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Feb. (1) 1963	Jan. (2) 1963	Feb. 1962	Feb. (1) 1963	Jan. (2) 1963	Feb. 1962	Feb. (1) 1963	Jan. (2) 1963	Feb. 1962
All Manufacturing	\$108.53	\$107.33	\$100.86	40.8	39.9	39.4	\$ 2.66	\$ 2.69	\$ 2.56
Durable goods	110.04	105.34	98.25	42.0	39.9	40.1	2.62	2.64	2.45
Primary metals	104.93	102.70	104.49	39.3	39.5	40.5	2.67	2.60	2.58
Nondurable goods	105.18	111.16	106.40	37.7	39.7	38.0	2.79	2.80	2.80
Food and kindred products	89.62	95.04	93.77	38.3	41.5	39.4	2.34	2.29	2.38
All Mining	108.13	110.30	113.52	39.9	40.7	42.2	2.71	2.71	2.69
Metal mining	106.54	106.54	106.27	38.6	38.6	39.8	2.76	2.76	2.67
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Transportation (except railroads)	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Utilities and communications	91.55	103.22	97.66	35.9	39.7	39.7	2.55	2.60	2.46

Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

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